

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
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-----032945 070521Z /10

R 060630Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000  
INFOR AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5467

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, CZ, UR, US, UK, AF  
SUBJECT: FOUR NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADORS ANNOUNCED: PURGE MAY NOW BE  
COMPLETE.

1. SUMMARY. THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT DEPUTY PRIME  
MINISTER BABRAK KARMAL, LEADER OF THE "LOSING" FACTION, IS ON HIS  
WAY TO PRAGUE COULD INDICATE THAT THE INTRA-PARTY PURGE MAY NOW BE  
COMPLETE. END SUMMARY.

2. RADIO AFGHANISTAN ANNOUNCED THE EVENING OF JULY 4 THAT AGREEMENT  
HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE UNITED STATES FOR THE  
ASSIGNMENT OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BABRAK KARMAL, AND OF INTERIOR  
MINISTER NUR AHMAD NUR AS AMBASSADORS TO PRAGUE AND WASHINGTON, RES-  
PECTIVELY. IN ADDITION, IT WAS ANNOUNCED ON JULY 2 THAT DEPUTY MIN-  
ISTER OF WATER AND POWER DR. RAZ MOHAMMAD PAKTEEN HAD BEEN SELECTED  
AS AFGHAN ENVOY TO MOSCOW, AND ON JULY 5 THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY SEC-  
RETARY GENERAL ABDUL WAKIL WOULD AMBASSADOR TO THE COURT OF ST. JAMES  
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3. COMMENT. AS LEADER OF THE FORMER PARCHAM FACTION OF THE PEOPLE'S  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN (PDPA), BABRAK REPRESENTS THE BIGGEST  
FIST CAUGHT IN THE PURGE CONDUCTED BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN  
NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAKI AND HIS FORMER KHALQIST WING SUPPORTERS.  
NUR AHMAD NUR WAS BABRAKUMS CHIEF POLITICAL LIEUTENANT, AND WAKIL WAS  
ANOTHER LONG-TERM PARCHAMIST. THE EXILE OF THESE THREE EFFECTIVELY  
COMPLETES THE ELIMINATION OF LEADING PARCHAMISTS FROM THE NEW LEADER-

SHIP'S INNOCENT CIRCLES (DR. ANAHITA, MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, AND BABRAK'S LONGTIME PARAMOUR, HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR BELGRADE, BUT AGREEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED).

4. A SPLIT BETWEEN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE TWO FACTIONS WAS ANTICIPATED EVER SINCE THE APRIL 27 REVOLUTION, BUT IT WAS NOT EXPECTED TO COME SOON. THE PURGE APPARENTLY ENCOUNTERED NO SERIOUS RESISTANCE FROM ANY QUARTER, THUS UNDERSCORING THE LACK OF SUPPORT THE PARACHIMISTS COMMANDED ELSEWHERE WITHIN THE PDPA AND, ESPECIALLY, WITHIN THE MILITARY.

TARAKI AND HIS COHORT FOREIGN MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN ARE CLEARLY THE LEADING POLITICAL FIGURES AT THE MOMENT, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THEY CAN EFFECTIVELY AND QUICKLY MOVE FROM INTERNAL PARTY POLITICS TO THE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TASK OF BROADENING THE REGIME'S BASE OF SUPPORT WITHIN AFGHAN SOCIETY. END COMMENT.

5. FOR MOSCOW. WE HAVE LITTLE BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON PAKTEEN TO ADD TO THAT CONTAINED IN THE OFFICIAL PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH WE PRESUME WAS CARRIED IN IZVESTIYA. FOLLOWING HIS GRADUATION FROM THE KABUL TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE IN 1961, HE SPENT A NUMBER OF YEARS STUDYING IN THE SOVIET UNION (AT DIFFERENT TIMES), AND HE RECEIVED HIS PHD FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MOSCOW INSTITUTE OF ENERGY IN 1977. HE JOINED THE PDPA IN 1966, BUT WE HAVE NO FIRM INFORMATION REGARDING WHICH WING HE SUPPORTED DURING THE PARTY'S 1967-77 SPLIT. NO SOURCE HERE HAS YET IDENTIFIED HIM AS A PARACHAMIST, WHILE SEVERAL CLAIM HE WAS A TARAKI SUPPORTER. IT STRIKES US AS LOGICAL FOR TARAKI TO PLACE A TRUSTED COLLEAGUE, RATHER THAN A PURGE VICTIM, IN MOSCOW, UNDOUBTEDLY THE MOST IMPORTANT FOREIGN POST FOR THIS REGIME. DURING THEIR JUNE 25 MEETING WITH PAKTEEN, THE CHARGE AND USAID DIRECTOR FOUND HIM TO BE PERSONABLE, FRIENDLY AND EASY TO TALK WITH. HIS ENGLISH IS FAIR, BUT HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT RUSSIAN.

6. FOR PRAGUE. BABRAK KARMAL (KNOWN SIMPLY AS BABRAK) IS IN HIS LATE FORTIES, AND SPENT FIVE YEARS IN JAIL IN THE 1950S BECAUSE OF HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AT KABUL UNIVERSITY. HE SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED A LAW DEGREE AND WAS ELECTED TO THE FORMER PARLIAMENT IN 1965. HE WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE PDPA IN 1965, BUT LED THE PARACHAM WING DURING THE TEN YEARS OF THE PARTY'S SPLIT. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH, BUT GIVEN HIS

PRO-SOVIET VIEWS, AND PROBABLE BITTERNESS AT HIS FATE, HE MAY BE A  
DIFFICULT CONTACT TO DEVELOP.

7. FOR LONDON. ABDUL WAKIL'S STAR ROSE AND FELL REMARKABLY ABRUPTLY

.  
HE EMERGED FROM OBSCURITY SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WITH HIS APPOINTMENT  
AS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NUMBER TWO MAN. HE REPORTEDLY WAS CHARGED  
WITH KEEPING AN EYE ON MINISTER AMINHF AND MAKING CERTAIN THAT BABRAK  
WAS INFORMED OF EVENTS IN THE FOREIGN POLICY FIELD. HE IS COMPLETELY  
INEXPERIENCED IN DIPLOMACY, AND IS YOUNG AND ARROGANT. HE CLAIMS HE  
CAN READ ENGLISH, BUT HIS SPEAKING ABILITY IS VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT.  
WE DOUBT HE WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL IMPACT ON LONDON'S DIPLOMATIC  
COMMUNITY, NOR ON AFGHAN-BRITISH RELATIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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